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The attached abstracts copied from the May 1973 Current Digest are worth your review. The items digested demonstrate the present tendency to involve cigarette smoking in industrial or occupational studies of respiratory disease.

It is not surprising that cigarette smoking has been considered a potentially confounding factor in the industrial studies. However, the current trend of such work (which is no doubt welcomed by other industries) is to lay primary blame on cigarette smoking. You will no doubt recall that the President's January, 1972, environmental message to Congress said that "it has been estimated that 95 percent of the disease (lung cancer) is attributable to cigarette smoking" and that smoking "explains about 90 percent of chronic obstructive lung diseases."

Not all investigators have accepted the view that smoking is the "major" villain. One who does not is Dr. Theodor Sterling, formerly of Washington University in St. Louis and now Director of the Computing Science Program at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

Dr. Sterling has suggested that a conference on the microchemical environment which would attempt to bring balance and fairness to the smoking/pollution question should be considered. His preliminary proposal (marked "A") is included and appears to be adequate for the purpose of determining whether or not a planning grant should be made for the purpose of bringing together an organizing group and settling on conference details.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/hqwj0060

Such a grant would not involve responsibility for funding any conference eventually held.

We recommend that funding in the amount of $20,000.00 (for travel and accommodations primarily) be provided either as a CTR special project or otherwise and would, of course, welcome any comments on the preliminary proposal.

It is also our recommendation that some arrangement be made for additional review and analysis of environmental and occupational pollution material. Our conclusion is that Dr. Sterling is the best person to oversee such a project. We have talked briefly with him and have asked that he submit a proposal and budget. We have, of course, made it clear that his work would be on a strictly "no strings attached" basis.

Dave and I urge that you read proposal "B" in its entirety paying special attention to items 1, 2 and 3 on page 6. These items cover two areas of unusual interest: First (a question asked by Dr. Shubik of the National Cancer Advisory Board), is there a reported decline in lung cancer rates and, if so, is it statistically associated with smoking?; and second (a particularly vexing question), what is the status of reports concerning claimed health effects from tobacco smoke on nonsmokers?

We recommend funding as a CTR special project (or otherwise if necessary) at the level of $61,240.00 per year for one year with an understanding that if a report on work undertaken and accomplished shows a need for an additional year's work, such support will be given at the same level (less if all funds are not required). The $61,240.00 is a maximum figure; should the expense of employing staff assistants or of other line items not require this amount, a proper adjustment will be made. Dr. Sterling wants to further refine the project, if approved, and would handle it on a personal service basis for the annual fee included in the attached budget ($16,000.00).

We would like to respond to Professor Sterling by May 21, if possible.

WILLIAM W. SHINN

WWS/rf
Enclosures
cc: Alexander Holtzman, Esq.
Lester Pollack, Esq.

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